Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for an automatic conferencing service, the apparatus comprising:

a service logic execution environment in a telecommunications service network; and

automatic conferencing service running in the service logic execution environment;

a conference coordination service logic program (SLP) as part of the automatic conferencing service;

an extensible markup language (XML) parser as part of the automatic conferencing service; and

a notification SLP as part of the automatic conferencing service, wherein the notification SLP is configured to send conference announcement messages to devices of conference attendees;

wherein the conference coordination SLP is configured to send an XML document to the XML parser, and to receive conference request information from the XML parser for use in registering a conference,

wherein the notification SLP is configured to receive the XML document from the conference coordination SLP, to send the XML document to the XML parser, and to receive attendee information from the XML parser for use in notifying attendees for the conference.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 2, wherein the automatic conferencing service modules further include~~ claim 1, further comprising an HTTP interface as part of the automatic conferencing service.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the HTTP interface comprises an HTTP server plug-in module and an HTTP dispatcher module, and wherein the HTTP dispatcher module is configured to receive a setup conference request, create an instance

of the conference coordination service logic program, and forward the setup conference request to the conference coordination service logic program to be processed.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 2, wherein the automatic conferencing service modules further include~~ claim 1, further comprising a home location register service logic program as part of the automatic conferencing service, wherein the home location register service logic program is configured to update device online status for the devices of conference attendees, and wherein the notification service logic program is further configured to read said device online status for the devices of conference attendees.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 2, wherein the automatic conferencing service modules further include~~ claim 1, further comprising a billing service logic program as part of the automatic conferencing service.

9. (currently amended) A method of scheduling an automatic conference, the method comprising:

reception of a conference request, including conference information specified by a user in an extensible markup language (XML) document, by a conference coordination service logic program (SLP) of an automatic conferencing service running in a service logic execution environment within a telecommunications network;

registration of the conference ~~by the automatic conferencing service~~ <u>conference coordination SLP which extracts conference information from the XML document using an XML parser</u>; and

notification of attendees of the conference ~~by the automatic conferencing service~~ <u>by a notification SLP which extracts attendee information from the XML document using the XML parser</u>.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the conference information includes time and attendee information~~, and wherein extensible markup language is used to communicate the conference information from the applications server to the automatic conferencing service~~.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein a user specifies the conference information using a phone to access an interactive voice response interface to the automatic conferencing service.

13. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising setting timers for the conference by the automatic conferencing service.

14. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising determination of an online status of a communication device of an attendee.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the online status determination is accomplished by way of a lookup to a home location register database.

16. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein an attendee is notified by way of electronic mail.

17. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein an attendee is notified by way of an SMS message.

18. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein an attendee is notified by way of an instant message.

19. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising accessing a directory by the automatic conferencing service to obtain a preference profile for an attendee.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the directory is accessed using a lightweight directory access protocol interface.

21. (canceled)

22. (new) A method of scheduling an automatic conference, the method comprising:

sending a request to schedule a conference from a browser to a web server;

communicating said request from the web server to high-availability telecommunications equipment by way of a hyper text transfer protocol (HTTP) server plug-in;

sending an extensible markup language (XML) document from the HTTP server plug-in to an HTTP dispatcher;

providing the XML document from the HTTP dispatcher to a conference coordination service logic program (SLP);

providing the XML document from the conference coordination SLP to an XML parser;

parsing the XML document by the XML parser to obtain conference request information;

returning the conference request information obtained from the XML document to the conference coordination SLP;

registering a conference with a unique conference identifier and setting timers by the conference coordination SLP; and

returning a notification, including the unique conference identifier, by the conference coordination SLP via the HTTP interface and the web server to the browser.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

sending the XML document from the conference coordination SLP to a notification SLP;

providing the XML document from the notification SLP to the XML parser;

parsing the XML document by the XML parser to obtain attendee information;

returning the attendee information obtained from the XML document to the notification SLP;

providing the attendee information from the notification SLP to a home location register (HLR) SLP;

looking-up a current online status of attendees by the HLR SLP;

returning the current online status of the attendees from the HLR SLP to the notification SLP;

sending the current online status of the attendees from the notification SLP to the conference coordination SLP; and

sending an in-progress response from the conference coordination SLP the HTTP interface and the web server to the browser.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

sending notice messages from the notification SLP to a plurality of attendees;

sending an XML response from the notification SLP to the conference coordination SLP, wherein the XML response indicates that the notice messages were sent to the plurality of attendees;

transmitting a response indicating that the notice messages were sent from the conference coordination SLP the HTTP interface and the web server to the browser; and

sending an XML billing record document from the conference coordination SLP to a billing SLP.